

January 20, 1988

Dear Gail,

I've enclosed a bunch of stuff that I've been wanting to send to you. Most of it is self explanatory or has a little yellow sticky attached. I direct your attention to the page entitled "Summary of CBC & T-Cell Counts". The normal values are listed in parentheses at the top. Abbreviations are as follows: WBC=white blood cells, RBC=red blood cells, Hct=hematocrit, Hgb=hemoglobin, T_4 =helper T-cells, T_8 =supressor T-cells, Ratio= T_4/T_8 . This summary covers more than 2 years and as you will note most categories show a fairly steady decline. The last blood test (12/24) shows my lowest ever WBC, RBC, and T-cell ratio, while my Hct & Hgb, though still low, are slightly improved over the previous month.

"Fry Now. Pay Later." is for your benefit. I hope it answers some of your questions about skin cancers. By now you should also have the results of your biopsy. Please let me know how it turned out.

As you can see from the enclosed newspaper article, our demonstration at the mayors "State-of-the-City" address was very successful. As further evidence of that success, I've enclosed a copy of an intercouncil memo from three of our city councilpersons to the rest of the Council regarding their response to the "grim and very gripping demonstration". We are watching very closely to see what happens next with the city council.

As you may know, Super Bowl XXII will be played here in San Diego. The whole world will be watching. Hmm... There is the possibility of doing a "die-in" in white face. I'm meeting with a group of ACT UP members this week to plan something.

The AIDS memorial Quilt will soon begin a year-long national tour. It will be in San Diego in April and I will be an active member of the San Diego Host Committee to find suitable place, do promotion, work out the logistics. It will be a lot of work but well worth it. I'm very excited about it. It will visit 24 cities, including Baltimore in June. I do hope that you will make every effort to see it when it is there.

In connection with all of that, I will soon be sending you two videos for you to view and return to me. One is a composi of the March on Washington and I hope that it will give you some idea of what the Washington experience was like. The second is a very stirring 15 minutes of the inaugural display of the Quilt in D.C. When you view it you will know why I want to be a part of bringing the Quilt to as many people as possible. I implore you to have Mom over to see both videos, and also share them with as many people as you can before you return them to me.

The copies of the person letters to me are included here because they represent some fine examples of the wonderful support that I have received from my circle of friends. That love and support means at least as much as all the medication and treatments. I am very fortunate. Many PWA's don't have such a good base of support.

I think of you daily and hope that you are finding some effective stress-reduction techniques. I know that you are dealing with an enormous load right now. I hope it is comforting to know that others care about what is going on with you. I wish I was close enough to talk more often. Have you seen the bumper sticker that reads, "SHIT HAPPENS" ?

-It's 3 AM...Don't you people ever want to go to bed? Hey you, get off of my cloud!

Love in the struggle,

Jess